

Legal Services Assistance Program

Responsibilities and Statistics

The Legal Services Assistance Program coordinates legal assistance programs within Arizona's aging network, providing technical assistance on both delivery and substantive issues, and planning and conducting training on legal intervention. The Aging and Adult Administration provides legal services assistance to older Arizonans through six Area Agencies on Aging. The Navajo Nation and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona have requested waivers from providing legal services. Tribal lawyers serve the needs of Native Americans on the reservations. Legal service assistance is available to any individual 60 years of age or older, with particular attention to those in greatest social and economic need with special emphasis on low-income minority individuals. In SFY 2001, approximately 4,000 older Arizonans received legal service assistance. The average cost to provide legal services was \$38.99 per person.

Legal Training

During SFY 2001, the Legal Services Assistance Program, in cooperation with the Attorney General's office, developed a highly specialized training on legal issues and mandates for new Adult Protective Service (APS) personnel. The training not only provided information on the legal mandates of the program but also provided personnel with additional training on the following topics: 1) Securities Fraud; 2) Insurance Fraud; 3) Public/Private Fiduciary Functions; 4) Alternatives to Guardianship; and 5) Investigating Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation.

The Legal Service Assistance Program continues to educate Department of Economic Security (DES) staff in legal intervention options. The training program, known as 'Advanced Directives Seminars', provides instruction in the following areas: 1) Health Care - Living Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Pre-Hospital Directives; 2) Financial - General Power of Attorney, Durable Power of Attorney, Trusts; and 3) Estate - Wills, Trusts, Payable on Death Accounts, Rights of Survivorship.

During SFY 2001, the Legal Service Assistance Program conducted ten Advanced Directives Seminars. The seminars were conducted across the state from January to June of 2001. Staff from APS, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Child Support Enforcement, the Arizona State Hospital, and DES retirees attended the seminars.